

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 141816
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:DPSULLIVAN:CMD
APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE
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S/S: SESTEINER

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O 180039Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 141816

EXDIS, FOR CHARGE FROM HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS

REF: MANILA 9145

1. YOUR JUNE 14 CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS CLEARLY MOVED US TO A MORE FRANK LEVEL OF CONSULTATION WITH MARCOS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS THAN HERETOFORE. IN OUR VIEW, THE PRESENTATION YOU MADE WAS VERY POSITIVE. HOWEVER, AS WE JUDGE IT, THE INTENSITY OF OUR DIALOGUE WITH MARCOS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS ALL THAT THE TRAFFIC WILL BEAR AT PRESENT TIME. IN ORDER TO INDUCE IMPROVEMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS, WHICH ONLY PHILIPPINE AUTHORITIES CAN PRODUCE, IT IS NECESSARY THAT WE NOT APPROACH THEM IN SUCH A WAY AS TO STIMULATE ANTAGONISTIC RATHER THAN A POSITIVE

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PAGE 02 STATE 141816

REACTION. I AM BRINGING YOUR REPORT OF THE MEETING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SECRETARY.

2. WE SHARE YOUR MISGIVINGS ABOUT MARCOS' REQUEST FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT TORTURE AND OTHER ABUSES WITHIN HIS MILITARY AND SECURITY FORCES. OBVIOUSLY, WE CANNOT ASSUME ROLE OF INFORMER. WE ALSO WIS; TO AVOID GIVING HIM

THE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE COLLABORATING AGAINST HIM WITH CHURCH ELEMENTS OR OTHER OPPOSITION GROUPS WITHIN PHILIPPINE BODY POLITIC.

3. ACCORDINGLY, YOU SHOULD INFORM MARCOS THAT WE DO NOT CONSIDER THAT IT WOULD BE PROPER OR APPROPRIATE FOR THE USG TO ASSUME INVESTIGATORY FUNCTION REGARDING ABUSES WITHIN GOP ORGANS. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE DEMEANING TO PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY. IT IS ALSO, IN OUR VIEW, UNNECESSARY. MARCOS CERTAINLY HAS THE CAPABILITY OF OBTAINING SUFFICIENT AND CREDIBLE INFORMATION EITHER FROM HIS OWN GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL OR FROM KNOWLEDGEABLE PRIVATE SOURCES WITHIN THE COUNTRY. WHAT IS NEEDED IS THE WILL TO DO SO AND PRESIDENT'S RECENT PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STATEMENTS INDICATE THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THE NECESSITY OF CARRYING THROUGH WITH A VERY TOUGH, DELICATE TASK. WE THINK HE IS BIG ENOUGH TO DO THE JOB, AND WE WILL GIVE HIM WHATEVER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT ARE APPROPRIATE. VANCE

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